



2018 Annual Report



All photos on the cover and on this page were taken by our wonderful pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STAFF



*

Peter Schwartz
BOARD CHAIR
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP



Rebecca Fischer
SECRETARY/TREASURER
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.



*

Connie Talmage
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



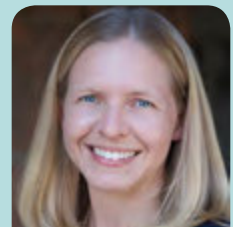
Lauren Carboni
YLD REPRESENTATIVE
DENTONS



Nancy Elkind
ELKIND ALTERMAN HARSTON
PC (RETIRED)



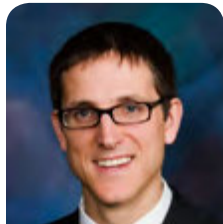
Iris Eytan
EYTAN NIELSEN LLC



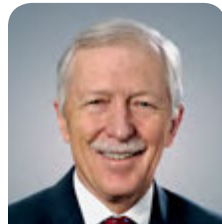
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Martha Fitzgerald
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER
SCHRECK, LLP



Tim Macdonald
ARNOLD & PORTER

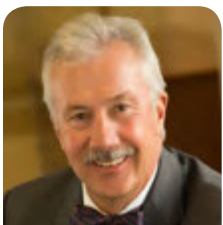


Dave Stark
FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP

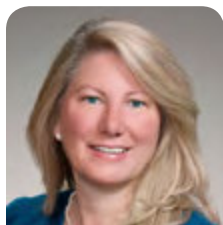


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Emily Yale
OFFICE MANAGER



Richard Westfall
HALE WESTFALL, LLP



Maureen Witt
HOLLAND & HART LLP

With thanks to Lauren Schmidt (formerly Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP; now Denver City Attorney's Office) and Tess Hand-Bender (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for your leadership and service on the Executive Committee in 2017.



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

About Us:

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of 77 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 40 years, Lawyers Committee volunteers have focused on major policy issues and systemic change through legal advocacy, negotiation, and litigation, using the unique skills of lawyers in service of others. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is affiliated with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington D.C. and similar organizations in seven other cities throughout the country.



Our Work:

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has 25 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, more than 920 volunteers contributed more than 6,900 hours and \$2.38 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. In addition, the CLC Young Lawyers Division has engaged 160 young (or recently admitted) lawyers and law students who are making a difference on six different YLD teams. The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers, supporting law firms, and staff. Thank you to the many individuals who have committed their time and expertise to improving the lives of others through the law for the past 40 years.



ACTIVE PROJECTS



VOLUNTEERS



HOURS





CONTRIBUTING LAW FIRMS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (INCLUDING SPECIALTY BAR REPRESENTATIVES)

AKERMAN LLP
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Howard M. Haenel

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Timothy R. Macdonald

BAKERHOSTETLER
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Leslie Ann Eaton

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BRADFORD, LTD.
Aaron P. Bradford

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP
Martha L. Fitzgerald
David B. Meschke

BUTLER SNOW LLP
Dee P. Wisor

CHAN LAW FIRM
Catherine A. Chan

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Mercedes G. Pineda

COLORADO INDIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Jennifer H. Weddle

COLORADO LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION
Laurence Gendelman

COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
Anna-Liisa Mullis

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Sean Connelly

COZEN O'CONNOR
Sarah Earle Killeen

DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP
Kenzo Kawanabe
Peter H. Schwartz

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Thomas E. Downey, Jr.

DREXLER LAW, LLC
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ELKIND ALTERMAN HARSTON PC
Nancy B. Elkind

EPSTEIN PATIERNO, LLP
John H. Tatlock

EYTAN NIELSEN LLC
Iris Eytan

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP
J. William Callison
David W. Stark

FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C.
Bruce E. Dahl

FORTIS LAW PARTNERS LLC
Jeffrey M. Brenman

GIACOMINI LAW LLC
Anthony L. Giacomini

H&K LAW, LLC
Laura J. Hazen

HADDON, MORGAN AND FOREMAN P.C.
Norman R. Mueller

HALE WESTFALL, LLP
Richard A. Westfall

HALL ESTILL
Mark F. Bell

HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Arnulfo D. Hernandez

HILL & ROBBINS, P.C.
Matthew A. Montgomery

HOFFMAN CREWS NIES WAGGENER & FOSTER LLP
Denise D. Hoffman White

HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP
Chalyse Robinson

HOLLAND & HART LLP
Craig E. Stewart
Maureen Reidy Witt

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
Shawn M. Turner

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP
Julie A. Sullivan

HUTCHINSON BLACK AND COOK, LLC
Susan L. Boothby

ILENE LIN BLOOM, P.C.
Ilene Lin Bloom

IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR & PASCOE, PC
Sarah W. Benedict

JACKSON KELLY PLLC
Kristin R.B. White

JOHNSON KNUDSON LLC
Eric M. Johnson

JOHNSON KUSH, P.C.
David M. Johnson

JONES & KELLER, P.C.
Howard Kenison

KAMLET LLP
Jay F. Kamlet

KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL LLP
Stephen H. Kaplan
John E. Putnam

KATHLEEN J. GEBHARDT, L.L.C.
Kathleen J. Gebhardt

LASS MOSES RAMP & COOPER LLC
Steven C. Lass

LAW OFFICE OF T.A. TAYLOR-HUNT, LLC
T. A. Taylor-Hunt

LEVIN SITCOFF, PC
Bradley A. Levin

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP
John Cardinal Parks

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP
Kenneth F. Rossman, IV

MCCORMICK AND MURPHY, P.C.
Kirk R. McCormick

MCDERMOTT STUART & WARD, LLP
Thomas R. Ward

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
Scott F. Llewellyn

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.
David D. Powell, Jr.

OTII LAW FIRM, L.L.C.
Atim Miriam Otii

OTTEN JOHNSON ROBINSON NEFF + RAGONETTI PC
J. Thomas Macdonald

PERKINS COIE LLP
L. Norton Cutler, Jr.

POLSINELLI PC
Gerald A. Niederman

RECHT KORNFELD PC
Marnie Adams

REILLY POZNER LLP

ROLLIN BRASWELL FISHER LLC
Maritza Dominguez Braswell

SAM CARY BAR ASSOCIATION
Nicole Gorham

SHAPIRO BIEGING BARBER OTTESON LLP
I. Thomas Bieging

SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.
Rebecca Anderson Fischer
Tamir I. Goldstein

SMITH IMMIGRATION
Jennifer M. Smith

SNELL & WILMER
James D. Kilroy

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP
Peter S. Gould

STINSON LEONARD STREET LLP
Jeffrey D. Harrison

THE HARRIS LAW FIRM P.C.
Richard A. Harris

THE LAW OFFICE OF PATRICIA M. JARZOBSKI, P.C.
Patricia M. Jarzobski

THE SWEETSER LAW FIRM, P.C.
Daniel A. Sweetser

THE WITT LAW FIRM
Jesse H. Witt

TIERNEY LAWRENCE LLC
Martha M. Tierney

UTESCH LAW, LLC
Kimberly A.S. Utesch

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP
Mary V. Sooter

WILSON ELSEER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN & DICKER LLP
Kayla D. Dreyer



THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

In 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a Young Lawyers Division to “empower passionate young lawyers to make a difference for children and the underserved through education, advocacy, and systemic change.” The CLC YLD is led by a Board comprised of young lawyers (under 40) or new attorneys (in practice less than 8 years) from law firms that contribute to the Lawyers Committee. General Membership in the CLC YLD is open (without charge) to young and new attorneys and law students. Members are invited to participate in one or more of the following teams:

- Fundraising & Events
- Hate Crimes Education
- Legal Night
- Public Relations
- Special Projects
- Strategic Planning



In its first two years, the YLD drafted a governing charter, produced and directed two videos shown at the Awards Luncheons, expanded and strengthened the Hate Crimes Education Program, took over running Denver Legal Night, actively supported the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the Nonpartisan Election Call Center, and held a number of YLD fundraising events, including Night at the Rockies and Casino Night, which helped raise over \$13,000 for future CLC projects. Over 160 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.

CLC YLD Board

Lauren P. Carboni (Dentons), YLD Chair, Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

Jennie Reid Wray (The Harris Law Firm P.C.), YLD Chair-Elect, Public Relations Team Co-Chair

Tess Hand-Bender (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), YLD Chair Emeritus, Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

Abigail Moss Hinchcliff (Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP), Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Stephanie A. Kanan (Snell & Wilmer), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

Matthew M. Linton (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.), Public Relations Team Co-Chair

Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

John M. McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Jill Tenley Oldak (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP), Special Projects Team Co-Chair

Joseph G. Phillips (Arnold & Porter), Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Ryan B. Thurber (Polsinelli PC), Special Projects Team Co-Chair

Mark D. Wilding (Ballard Spahr LLP), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

#ProBonoRocks





2017 HONOREES



We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2017 honorees are included on these pages.

Law Firm of the Year Recipient, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient, David W. Stark (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)



Team of the Year, the Jail Wait Litigation Team

- Caleb Durling (Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC)
- Iris Eytan (Eytan Nielsen LLC)
- Mark Ivandick (Disability Law Colorado)
- Kelsey Lesco (Disability Law Colorado)
- Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)
- Jason M. Lynch (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
- Jennifer Purrington (Disability Law Colorado)

2017 HONOREES



Susan C. Cole (Arnold & Porter), Special Recognition Award



Bob Troyer accepts the Special Recognition Award on behalf of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado

We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2017:

Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees

Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

Team of the Year Nominees

DENVER LEGAL NIGHT TEAM:

Stephanie A. Kanan (Snell & Wilmer)

Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)

HATE CRIMES PRESENTATION TASK FORCE TEAM:

Beth Ann Lennon (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

John M. McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Tarek F. M. Saad (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Phyllis V. Wan (Hogan Lovells US LLP)

NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC TEAM:

David L. Coats (Student, University of Denver Sturm College of Law)

Samuel E. Edwards (Holland & Hart LLP)

Martina Hinojosa (Butler Snow LLP)

Jill Tenley Oldak (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)

Carolyn S. Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel - Colorado Chapter)

Hannah Pressler (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Peter H. Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Scott Thompson (Budget Analyst, Colorado General Assembly)

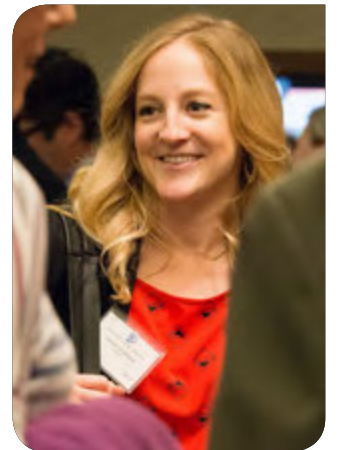
Melanie Tsuchida (Colorado Nonprofit Association)



2017 AWARDS LUNCHEON



A GRAND CELEBRATION





2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Julie E. Anderson
ANDERSON HEMMAT, LLC

Catharyn A. Baird
ETHICSGAME, LLC

Frederick J. Baumann
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

Christopher P. Beall
FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Michael L. Bender
PERKINS COIE LLP

Nicole Marie Black
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Joan Blaik
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Susan L. Boothby
HUTCHINSON BLACK AND COOK, LLC

Aaron P. Bradford
BRADFORD, LTD.

Bernie Buescher
IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR & PASCOE, PC

Mary Beth Buescher
ATTORNEY (RETIRED)

A. Bruce Campbell
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT (RETIRED)

Russell E. Carparelli
AB-CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES

Nancy L. Cohen
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Sean Connelly
CONNELLY LAW LLC

Frederic K. Conover
MOYE WHITE LLP

George B. Curtis
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP (RETIRED)

Lucy Hojo Denson
HINDS AND HINDS FAMILY LAW, PC

Samuel E. Edwards
HOLLAND & HART LLP

Nancy B. Elkind
ELKIND ALTERMAN HARSTON PC (RETIRED)

Iris Eytan
EYTAN NIELSEN LLC

The Chair's Roundtable is composed of individuals who generously agreed to contribute \$1,000 per year for a period of five years to the Colorado Lawyers Committee. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors thank the members of the Chair's Roundtable for their support and dedication to our mission. Thanks also to Iris Eytan (Eytan Nielsen LLC) and Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for chairing this effort.

Martha L. Fitzgerald
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP

Rebecca Anderson Fischer
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Andrew A. Folkerth
HOLLAND & HART LLP

C. Adam Foster
THE HOBAN LAW GROUP

Elizabeth Froehlke
LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.

Tamir I. Goldstein
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Sean C. Grimsley
BARTLIT BECK HERMAN PALENCHAR & SCOTT LLP

Harold A. Haddon
HADDON, MORGAN AND FOREMAN P.C.

Norman D. Haglund
JAMS

Laura J. Hazen
H&K LAW, LLC

Richard F. & Pamela B. Hennessey
ATTORNEYS (RETIRED)

Arnulfo D. Hernandez
HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Robert F. Hill
HILL & ROBBINS, P.C.

Abigail Moss Hinchcliff
BARTLIT BECK HERMAN PALENCHAR & SCOTT LLP



2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Clay James
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP

Patricia M. Jarzowski
THE LAW OFFICE OF PATRICIA M. JARZOWSKI, P.C.

Craig D. Joyce
FAIRFIELD AND WOODS P.C.

Edwin S. Kahn
LASS MOSES RAMP & COOPER LLC

Kenzo Kawanabe
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

Bradley A. Levin
LEVIN SITCOFF, PC

Scott F. Llewellyn
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

Ellie Lockwood
SNELL & WILMER

Frank Lopez
GLADE VOOGT LORD SMITH, P.C.

Jason M. Lynch
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

J. Thomas Macdonald
OTTEN JOHNSON ROBINSON NEFF + RAGONETTI PC

Timothy R. Macdonald
ARNOLD & PORTER

Michael S. McCarthy
FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP

Caitlin McHugh
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

Gale T. Miller
COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS (RETIRED)

Terry R. Miller

Kristen L. Mix
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Daphne O'Connor
ARNOLD & PORTER

Andrew J. Petrie
BALLARD SPAHR LLP

Carolyn S. Powell

Christopher L. Richardson
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

Chalyse Robinson
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP

John L. Ruppert
BALLARD SPAHR LLP

Lauren E. Schmidt
DENVER CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Peter H. Schwartz
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

Byeongsook Seo
SNELL & WILMER

Thomas W. Snyder
KUTAK ROCK LLP

David W. Stark
FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP

Stefan D. Stein
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

C. Jean Stewart
JEAN STEWART LLC

Craig E. Stewart
HOLLAND & HART LLP

Jerome H. Sturhahn
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Daniel A. Sweetser
THE SWEETSER LAW FIRM, P.C.

Constance C. Talmage
COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Charles Y. Tanabe

Erica L. Tarpey
IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR & PASCOE, PC

James K. Tarpey

Luis A. Toro

John F. Walsh
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

Richard A. Westfall
HALE WESTFALL, LLP

Mark W. Williams
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Dee P. Wisor
BUTLER SNOW LLP

Maureen Reidy Witt
HOLLAND & HART LLP

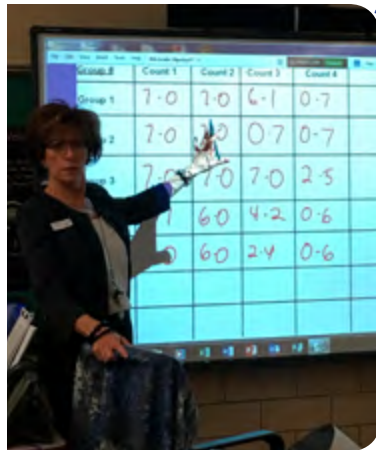
Elaine A. Wohlner
JAMS



2017 TASK FORCES



2017 TASK FORCES

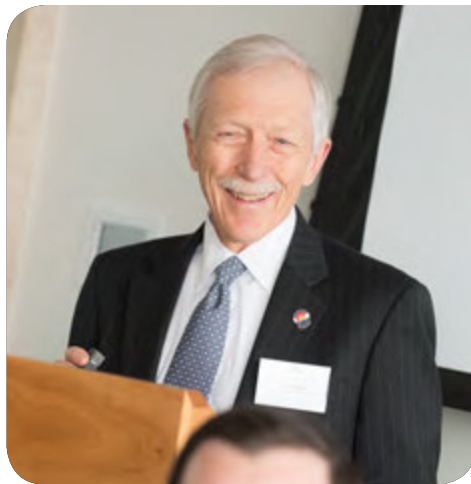




CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Standing Up for Kids: The Children's Task Force

Established in 2003, the Children's Task Force examines issues relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are any legal problems that would benefit from advocacy of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers.



In past years, task force volunteers worked to ensure that the State provides behavioral therapy services to children with autism through Medicaid as required by federal law. Recently, the Task Force began to explore other possible issues and formed two new subcommittees: Foster Care and Immigration.

Co-Chairs

Dave Stark
(Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)
Maritza Braswell
(Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC)

2017 Volunteers:

**25 volunteers from
14 law firms/organizations**



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Standing Up for Kids

The Foster Care Subcommittee of the Children's Task Force is currently working to address the issue of youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who are being housed/treated in overly restrictive, non-integrated placements due to a lack of appropriate residential placements and community supports. These practices have resulted in youth being unnecessarily removed from the home, youth being placed far away from home in a facility that is more restrictive than necessary, often preventing family reunification, and even youth remaining in detention facilities for weeks and months awaiting placement.

The Immigration Subcommittee of the Children's Task Force examined several possible issues regarding how recent government practices are impacting children, including: (1) Can standing be established for a citizen child in a parental deportation proceeding, which would impact the ability of ICE to deport his or her parent; and (2) Is the government enforcing the Obama Parental Interest Directive that requires ICE to consider parental interests during court proceedings?

Foster Care Subcommittee

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Sarah Benedict (Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC)

Angie Layton (Law Offices of Angelique Layton Anderson)

2017 Volunteers:

7 volunteers from 7 law firms/organizations

Immigration Subcommittee

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Froehlke (Littler Mendelson, P.C.)

Tiffany Pelham Webb

2017 Volunteers:

10 volunteers from 9 law firms/organizations



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: The Education Task Force

The Lawyers Committee has a long history of advocating on educational issues. Much of the Task Force's work during the last five years has focused on litigation, including *Dwyer v. Colorado*, which alleged that the State's \$1 billion per year cuts to school funding since 2010 are in violation of Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution. The Colorado Supreme Court upheld the cuts in 2014. In addition, the Education Task Force examined whether small school districts that fund their schools entirely through local property taxes can be required by the State to increase their mill levy without voter approval and write a check to the State for their share of the "negative factor" (implemented by the State to cut \$1 billion per year from education). Most recently, the Task Force



is exploring the resegregation of Denver Public Schools, possible disparate impact claims and the potential impact in Colorado of the Every Student Succeeds Act, as well as steps that can be taken to address school finance deficits in Colorado. The Task Force has also created four subcommittees: Anti-Bullying, DPS Resegregation, Special Education, and School Discipline.

Chair

John Tatlock
(Epstein Patierno, LLP)

Thanks to departing
Co-Chair, Lauren Schmidt
(formerly Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck, LLP).

2017 Volunteers

**53 volunteers from
31 law firms/organizations**



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

The Anti-Bullying Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

House Bill 11-1254 requires school districts to modify their anti-bullying policies to prohibit bullying on the basis of a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. After six years of work by the Gill Foundation and others, 17% of Colorado schools have not complied; 11% of children in this state are impacted as a result. The Anti-Bullying Subcommittee has been exploring whether they can assist schools to comply with this law.

Denver Public School Resegregation Subcommittee

The DPS Resegregation Subcommittee believes one of the causes of the resegregation of DPS is the scarcity of transportation for school-aged children. The Donnell-Kay Foundation with Together Colorado has been working with students, community members, DPS, Denver's Office of Children Affairs, and RTD to increase transportation options for youth. Educational opportunities abound in our community's schools, libraries, cultural facilities, and recreation centers as well as through after-school and summer jobs. The institutions and programs are in place, but the missing key is access to affordable transit. Members of the subcommittee recently met with RTD leadership to explore whether the CLC can assist in these efforts.

Anti-Bullying Subcommittee

Co-Chairs

John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)
Mark Spitz (Spitz Legal Counsel LLC)

2017 Volunteers

**7 volunteers from 7 law firms/
organizations**

Denver Public School Resegregation Subcommittee

Co-Chairs

Matthew Samelson (Donnell-Kay Foundation)
Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)

2017 Volunteers

10 volunteers from 8 law firms/organizations



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

The Special Education Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

In 2017, the Special Education Subcommittee examined the following issues: (1) charter school practices of not providing services to special needs kids (keeping kids through "count day" and then telling them they have no services); (2) implementation of the recent US Supreme Court decision in a Douglas County case (which requires the state to offer an "individualized education program" [IEP] reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress that is appropriate in light of the child's circumstances); and (3) looking at the impact of the underfunding of special education on both the identification of students needing services and the inability of districts to provide necessary services.

The School Discipline Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

The School Discipline Subcommittee believes that many school districts across the state are not providing required due process to students who are suspended, expelled or otherwise disciplined by school authorities. In addition, parents who don't have the benefit of legal counsel are often not aware of their legal rights. (A review in one Colorado school district recently revealed that students who had an attorney were rarely, if ever, expelled while students who were not represented were often expelled). The Subcommittee plans to explore ways to improve school policies and to educate parents regarding school discipline.

Special Education Subcommittee

Co-Chairs

Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)
John Parks (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP)

2017 Volunteers

24 volunteers from 22 law firms/organizations

School Discipline Subcommittee

Co-Chairs

John Tatlock (Epstein Patierno, LLP)
Jacque Phillips (Law Office of Dr. Jacque Phillips)

2017 Volunteers

20 volunteers from 17 law firms/organizations

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Access to the Polls: The Election Task Force

The goal of the Election Task Force is to monitor the election process and work to ensure access to the polls in Colorado's elections. This bipartisan coalition of volunteers works closely with the Colorado Secretary of State, the Republican and Democratic parties, the specialty bar associations, and other key constituencies to assure collaborative solutions to election issues and changes to the law.



Co-Chairs

Martha Tierney (Tierney Lawrence LLC)
Richard Westfall (Hale Westfall, LLP)

2017 Volunteers

51 volunteers from 33 law firms/organizations



CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW



Nonpartisan Election Call Center

For 12 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has been an active participant in a coalition (Just Vote! Election Protection Colorado) which sponsors a Nonpartisan Election Call Center. In 2016, almost 100 Lawyers Committee volunteers received training and answered phones for 18 days during early voting and on Election Day. Volunteers responded to questions from more than 1,700 voters around the state related to registration, voting procedures, polling places, mail ballots, and similar issues. A similar call center is planned for 2018.

Nonpartisan Election Call Center

Coordinator

Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)

2017 Volunteers

97 volunteers from 41 law firms/organizations

*



Voting ID Task Force

In November 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a task force to explore possible consequences if Colorado enacts more restrictive ID requirements as a requirement for voting (as some other states have done). During 2016, volunteers examined whether such restrictions might disenfranchise significant numbers of individuals (mostly poor and elderly) who are unable to obtain a state issued ID, or encounter significant roadblocks in obtaining a state issued ID. The task force also researched litigation and voting requirements in other states and the availability of data in Colorado to measure the number of people who do not have state issued IDs.

Voting ID Task Force

Chair

Bernie Buescher
(Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe PC)

2017 Volunteers

50 volunteers from 30 law firms/organizations

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Teaching Students about Hate Crimes: The Hate Crimes Education Task Force

For more than 20 years, volunteers have presented an educational program on Colorado's Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes Statutes to schools and community groups around the state. Using a fictional trial format involving a high-school student charged with hate crimes against a Muslim teacher, a perceived LGBT student and others (including by way of a social media threat), the presentation empowers student participants to act as jurors to improve their community culture in areas concerning diversity, discrimination, stereotyping, inclusion and preventing the severe harm caused by hateful slurs and biased actions. In 2017, volunteers presented more than 22 educational trials to over 900 students. The Task Force also partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice in its efforts to reach out to minority communities (particularly those with significant Muslim and Sikh presence) and offered presentations in schools with highly diverse populations. The Task Force has grown in size with many new volunteers from the Department of Justice and the CLC Young Lawyers Division, enabling the Task Force to keep up with an increase in requests from new schools and groups seeking to foster a culture of inclusion rather than communities of exclusion. Most recently, the CLC has been offered a grant from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to develop a hate crimes presentation, based on the Colorado script, that can be used across the country to teach children and community members about the Federal Hate Crimes law.



Leadership Team

Beth Ann Lennon (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Tarek Saad (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Phyllis Wan (formerly Charter Communications, Inc.)

Mack Wilding (Ballard Spahr LLP)

2017 Volunteers

70 attorneys, paralegals, and law students from 35 law firms/organizations



CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Defending Landowner Access to the Taylor Ranch: The Taylor Ranch Task Force

The Taylor Ranch litigation (*Lobato v. Taylor*) involves the right of landowners in the San Luis Valley to access a 77,500-acre mountainous parcel known as the Taylor Ranch. This right was created in the mid-1800's when settlers on the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, then a part of Mexico, were promised access to the mountainous regions near their homes for uses necessary for their survival. More than 100 years later, Jack Taylor purchased and fenced off the land. The Lawyers Committee has been active in this litigation for the past 20 years and has successfully obtained rights for landowners entitled to access the property (after a 2003 decision by the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the rights of plaintiff property owners). To date, the District Court has examined title to thousands of parcels of land and found that all but a few parcels are entitled to access Taylor Ranch. In 2016, the team successfully challenged an attempt by the owners of Taylor Ranch to cut off yet-to-be-identified landowners' rights through notice by publication and persuaded the Court to certify its prior rulings as final, while leaving the case open for any future landowners to make access claims. The case is once again on appeal before the Colorado Court of Appeals—for the third time.



Chair

Aaron Boschee (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

2017 Volunteers

19 attorneys and paralegals from 6 firms/ organizations

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Protecting the Rights of Individuals Detained in Jail with Mental Health Disabilities: the Jail Wait Litigation

This lawsuit arose from a 2008 action against the Colorado State Department of Human Services (DHS) alleging its forensic mental health hospital in Pueblo failed to timely admit individuals with mental illness who were waiting in Colorado jails for competency examinations, which the Department is mandated by law to conduct. The initial lawsuit was resolved with a court-approved settlement agreement that required the Department to conduct examinations within 24 days of receiving the court orders to evaluate these individuals. The settlement expired with the building of a new 200-bed forensic facility in Pueblo in 2010. Soon after, the Department stopped providing evaluations within 24 days and the “jail wait” times increased significantly. In 2011, volunteers filed a federal civil rights action representing the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People (now Disability Law Colorado) against DHS and the Colorado State Mental Health Hospital in Pueblo, alleging 14th Amendment constitutional violations. A landmark settlement was reached in 2012 binding the State to a 10-year agreement. The agreement requires the State to evaluate individuals for competency held in the county jail within 24 or 28 days of receipt of the court order and essential police report, and if found incompetent, to admit the patients and restore to competency within 28 days of receipt of the order for restoration. In 2015, an audit by the litigation team revealed that the State provided numerous months of false reports indicating full compliance. The investigation revealed that many detainees were waiting more than 100 days for competency evaluations. In October 2015, the litigation team requested the Federal Court to reopen the case and then in July 2016 reached another favorable settlement with the State. The settlement provides for quarterly meetings, more detailed reports, an extension of the agreement, and an independent consultant to monitor the State’s compliance. In June 2017, new backlogs began, and as of December 2017, the team alleged breach of the agreement. As of March 2018, more than 125 people at a time are waiting more than three and four months to obtain treatment to restore them to competency. In 2018, there will be more than 1000 people waiting in jails for months, without any treatment. The litigation team is working towards a robust consent decree with the State.



Leadership Team

Iris Eytan (Eytan Nielsen LLC)
Caleb Durling (Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC)
Meghan Baker (Disability Law Colorado)
Allison Daniels (Disability Law Colorado)
Patrick Hackney (Disability Law Colorado)
Mark Ivandick (Disability Law Colorado)

Kelsey Lesco (Disability Law Colorado)
Scott Llewellyn (Morrison & Foerster LLP)
Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)
Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter)
Kathleen Mullen
Jenn Purrington (Disability Law Colorado)
Tim Scalo (Snell & Wilmer)
Byeongsook Seo (Snell & Wilmer)



POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Joint ID Task Force

There are major barriers in Colorado to obtaining a state-issued identification card (ID), particularly for those with limited resources. Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has worked to address the barriers facing homeless and other individuals in obtaining Colorado IDs, without which they are unable to secure housing, employment, and other critical services. In early 2013, at the request of the Lawyers Committee, Governor Hickenlooper's office created a Joint ID Task Force. Participants include representatives from the ID Collaboration Project (housed at Colorado Legal Services), at least six staff from the Department of Revenue (DOR) (including the Executive Directors and Deputy Directors of DOR and the Division of Motor Vehicles) and the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee. Individuals from the Department of Corrections, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, One Colorado, the ACLU, and other organizations are invited, as



appropriate, to attend quarterly meetings where individual issues and systemic barriers to obtaining IDs are discussed. Most recently, the Task Force began examining a number of issues, including whether the State is required to issue ID's and licenses with a gender neutral designation (e.g., Male, Female, and X).

POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Greeley Legal Clinic

Greeley Legal Night was established in 2010 as a joint project of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Association of the Colorado Bar Association, and Weld County Legal Services. Since 2010, the Task Force has been offering four to six legal clinics a year at Our Lady of Peace Church in Greeley. Modeled after the successful Denver Legal Night program, volunteer lawyers provide free legal information and referrals to a community where such resources are limited. Issues addressed typically include immigration, family, housing, and criminal matters. Since the start of the clinic, more than 2,700 individuals have been assisted by Task Force volunteers at Greeley Legal Night. In 2017, over 155 clients were served.



Chair

Michelle Berge (Denver Public Schools)

2017 Volunteers

24 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 17 law firms/organizations



POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Denver Legal Night



Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has co-sponsored with the Denver Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Denver Access to Justice Committee, two monthly Legal Night clinics to provide legal information and referrals for individuals and families who can't afford legal services. Clinics are held at Centro San Juan Diego, and clients are served on a first-come first-served basis. Issues generally include immigration, criminal, family, consumer, and housing matters; volunteer interpreters are available to assist when needed. In 2017, Mi Casa Resource Center moved locations, which prompted Denver Legal Night to remain at Centro San Juan Diego for both clinic nights. The Lawyers Committee co-sponsored a training, on the ethics of pro bono service, designed to allow volunteers to become better equipped to help individuals at Legal Night. The leadership team continued its partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office and four other agencies to arrange for "know your rights" presentations for clients on immigration and other issues. Those four agencies include the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel; the Office for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 28,000 individuals have been served. In 2017, 255 volunteers assisted 2,089 clients.



Leadership Team

Stephanie Kanan (Snell & Wilmer)
Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)
Angela Reyes

2017 Volunteers

255 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 131 law firms/organizations

POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Project Homeless Connect

Since 2005, the Lawyers Committee has coordinated the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event sponsored by the City of Denver which typically links about 1,000 homeless individuals in Denver to a variety of services, including public benefits, housing, jobs, medical care, and legal assistance. Task Force volunteers staff a legal resource area, where homeless individuals receive legal information and referrals, as well as a Homeless Court, where outstanding warrants for municipal violations can be resolved before a Denver County Judge. Since 2005, the Task Force has provided 975 legal volunteers to these events, more than 2,900 individuals have been helped with legal issues, and more than approximately 1,500 cases have been heard in Homeless Court. In 2017, 58 volunteers helped over 168 individuals.



Leadership Team

Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter)

Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter)

Alice Norman (Chief Denver Municipal Public Defender)

Carolyn Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel–Colorado Chapter)

Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

2017 Volunteers

58 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 26 law firms/organizations



POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Federal Clinic

The Judges in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado recently approved a two-year pilot program to create a clinic for pro se litigants in the federal courthouse. The Lawyers Committee has been involved in the planning of the clinic for over a year. The Clinic will be operated by the Colorado Bar Association; the Lawyers Committee will help set up the clinic and serve on the clinic's advisory board. The clinic is expected to open later this year.



Leadership Team

Iris Eytan (Eytan Nielsen)

Dave Stark (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Maureen Witt (Holland & Hart LLP)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic

Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has co-sponsored a Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic for small nonprofits with limited operating budgets. Teams of transactional attorneys review a checklist with participating nonprofits to evaluate their legal health. Client meetings are preceded by a CLE training for participating lawyers on Colorado nonprofit law. In 2017, there were two clinics where 110 attorneys assisted 39 nonprofits.



Leadership Team

Sam Edwards, Co-Chair
(Holland & Hart LLP)

Peter Schwartz, Co-Chair (Davis
Graham & Stubbs LLP)

David Coats (Student, University
of Denver Sturm College of Law)

Martina Hinojosa (Butler Snow
LLP)

Tenley Oldak (Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck, LLP)

Carolyn Powell (Association of
Corporate Counsel–Colorado Chapter)

Hannah Pressler (Davis Graham &
Stubbs LLP)

Scott Thompson (Budget Analyst,
Colorado General Assembly)

Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC)

Melanie Tsuchida (Colorado Nonprofit
Association)

Chris Unger (Dewhirst & Dolven, LLC)

2017 Volunteers

**110 attorneys, paralegals,
law students and
interpreters from 58 law
firms/organizations**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Assisting Small Colorado Nonprofits: the Nonprofit Pro Bono Matching Program

Since 2009, this Task Force has, in partnership with the Colorado Nonprofit Association, provided transactional-type legal services and representation to budget-constrained nonprofit organizations. While the Task Force initially assisted only nonprofits that served children or the indigent, in 2010 the Task Force broadened the scope of its work to include all small nonprofits whose operating budgets do not permit them to retain legal counsel. Last year, volunteers provided transactional-type legal assistance to over 40 organizations. Since the matching program began, more than 400 nonprofits have been served.



Leadership Team

Chris Lane, Chair (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Melanie Tsuchida (Colorado Nonprofit Association)
Hannah Pressler (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

2017 Volunteers

62 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 34 law firms/organizations

IMMIGRATION

Assistance for Indigent Immigrants: the Immigration Task Force

For almost 20 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has supported the efforts of the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center to provide low-cost immigration services to the local population, including overseeing services provided, training its staff, and providing referrals to pro bono attorneys. In 2017, the Task Force continued its assistance of IRC and also helped to provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night seeking assistance regarding the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to US citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders.



Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund Advisory Committee

Commitment to Stand with Immigrants and Refugees

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund was established by Mayor Hancock's Executive Order 142, which affirms Denver's commitment to stand with immigrants and refugees and maintains Denver as a welcoming city where everyone can feel safe and thrive. The Denver Foundation will distribute grants to nonprofit organizations providing direct legal representation to Denver residents for defense of removal proceedings and for assistance with affirmative immigration relief. CLC was asked to appoint a legal representative to serve on the Advisory Committee. Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC) will be our representative.

Immigration Task Force

Leadership Team

Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC)

Steven Williams (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)

Thank you to the departing Co-Chairs of the Immigration Task Force:

Atim Otii (Otii Law Firm, L.L.C.)

Jocelyn Campanaro (Fisher & Phillips LLP)

Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund Advisory Committee

CLC Representative

Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC)



IMMIGRATION



Helping Immigrants: The Consulate Project

In early 2017, the Lawyers Committee created a new project that is designed to provide pro bono legal consultation to immigrant victims of crimes who are referred by several local consulates.

Helping Immigrant Children: SIJS Training for Non-Immigration Lawyers

In response to the humanitarian crisis involving unaccompanied immigrant children in Colorado and the dire need for pro bono legal representation for this vulnerable population, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP to present a free training on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). SIJS is a legal immigration protection for immigrant children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected and who are juvenile court dependents. Through this form of immigration relief, children have the opportunity to become lawful permanent residents. Many children currently in proceedings before the Denver Immigration Court are eligible for this form of protection, but lack counsel to represent them, in both juvenile/state and immigration proceedings. More than 140 lawyers attended the 2017 training. All attendees agreed to take a pro bono case representing an immigrant child.



The Consulate Project

Chair

John Walsh
(Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)

FELLOWSHIPS

Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship



Due to a generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler, the Colorado Lawyers Committee recently created the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship. This fellowship funds a law student to work at the Colorado Lawyers Committee every other summer. Congratulations to **Megan Barkdull**, a law student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, who was selected to be the first recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship and who worked with us during the summer of 2017.

Hill & Robbins Public Interest Paid Fellowship



The Hill & Robbins Internship was established in 1996 to encourage law students to do work in the public interest area. Each year, a student from the University of Colorado or the University of Denver is awarded the internship to work on a public interest project either through the Colorado Lawyers Committee or Colorado Legal Services (CLS). This year's Hill & Robbins Intern will be placed with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and will have an opportunity to work on various pro bono public interest projects relating to poverty issues and children. Congratulations to **Leanna Gavin**, a student at the University of Colorado School of Law, the 2018 Hill & Robbins Fellow who will work with us this summer. Thank you to Hill & Robbins, P.C. for creating and continuing this Fellowship for more than 20 years.

Magistrate Judge Kristin Mix's Public Interest Diversity Internship/Externship Program (MixDIP)



The Colorado Lawyers Committee was honored to be asked to participate in Magistrate Judge Mix's new unpaid Externship program for diverse 2nd and 3rd year law students at DU and CU in a public service legal environment. Congratulations to **Dardoh Skinner**, a University of Colorado Law School student who worked at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in the fall of 2017. Thank you to Magistrate Judge Mix for providing the CLC the opportunity to participate in this program.



Thank you to our many volunteers, supporters (law firms and other contributors) and the leadership of our Board Chairs and Executive Directors for making our success possible over the past 40 years.



All photos on this page were taken by our wonderful pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC, except *.

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